

IN HONOR OF PAUL SUPKO

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Supko of Huntingdon County for his service in the United States Navy. Paul is an outstanding Pennsylvanian, and I am grateful for his service to our Nation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our community.

In Pennsylvania and across the country, our veterans have served and sacrificed for Americans' freedom and our values. They answered the call to serve and fight for us—at a great cost. Truly, our veterans are the best of America.

In Congress, it is my privilege—and my responsibility—to stand up for those who have served our country in uniform, as well as to recognize these brave Americans. As a Nation, we are indebted to them. On behalf of the 13th Congressional District, I thank Paul for his service to our Nation and our community.

HONORING EDWARD J. TRACEY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, on this the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII, I rise to pay tribute to Edward J. Tracey. Like so many of our courageous WWII veterans, Ed is gone but will not be forgotten. Madam Speaker, I am confident that the following highlights of the contributions Ed Tracey made to the War effort will reveal a legacy, not only for the 13th District of Ohio, but for the broader impact Capt. Tracey had on the victory against tyranny.

Ed along with his two brothers and two sisters, grew up at RFD No. 3, a farm located in Cortland, Ohio. Ed began his lifelong love of flying by taking lessons from a local flight instructor by the name of Ernie C. Hall at Hall's Airport. Ernest "Ernie" C. Hall who is widely recognized for his long career in aviation, was born near Warren, Ohio in 1890. A friend of the Wright brothers, Hall built his first powered airplane in 1909 and flew it in 1911. He began his career as a civilian flight instructor in 1913, opening a flying school in Pennsylvania in 1915. During World War I he transferred to Call Field in Wichita Falls, Texas where he trained over 500 military pilots for combat. In 1922 Hall relocated his flight school to Warren, Ohio where he taught until his death in 1972. His 1911 monoplanes have been displayed at the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum in Washington, D.C. and at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. Ed logged a total of 110 hrs. at Hall's Airport.

Ed left the family farm and traveled to Canada to join the Royal Canadian Air Force in May 1941, seven months before Pearl Harbor. Ed became a Flying Sergeant in the Royal Canadian Air Force and trained in the following aircraft: Fleet Finch, Harvard, Tiger Moth and the Fairey Battle. Ed logged a total

of 375 hrs. in the RCAF from May 1941 through May 1942 and was awarded the Canadian War Medal.

After serving one year in the RCAF, Ed transferred to the U.S. Army Air Corps in June 1942 and was posted to Tyndall Airfield Gun-nery School near Panama City, Florida for combat training. During training at Tyndall Field, 2nd Lt. Tracey met 2nd Lt. Clark Gable, the "King of Hollywood" and one of the stars of the 1939 film classic "Gone With the Wind". After what must have been a night full of many stories, most likely related to training and the uncertainties that lie ahead, Tracey left sporting Gable's service hat (also known as a crusher) and vice versa. They met again the next day for the ROTC (Return of The Crushers). Ed logged a total of 264 hrs. in the following aircraft from June 1942 through September 1943: O-46A, L-4B, AT-6A, AT-6C, BT-13A, O-47A, O-47B, (P-51A, P-51B Mustangs), A-33, AT-9, AT-9B, P40L Warhawk, (B-25C, B-25D Mitchells), B-26 Marauder, B-34 Lexington.

In October of 1943 Ed transferred to the 522nd Squadron—27th Fighter Bomber Group. The 27th supported the 5th Army's drive toward Rome. Ed flew the A-36 Apache, the P-40F Warhawk, and the P-47D Thunderbolt in combat. The nose art on his Thunderbolt read RFD No. 3—Ed wanted the enemy to know where his special deliveries were coming from, and there were many.

January 12, 1944: Ed was on a mission to take out enemy gun positions close to the front lines in South Central Italy. His A-36 Apache developed engine trouble near Gaeta Point and he had to leave the formation. Ed got as far as the Voltumo River Valley before coming down in a field for a belly landing.

The impact caused the prop to slice through the canopy. Lucky for Ed, his head went down and forward, just in time to avoid disaster. Ed flew a total of 102 air combat missions from October 1943 through August 1944 and logged a total of 165 hrs. of flight in the Mediterranean Theatre of War. Rome was liberated on June 5, 1944. "ANGELS ON OUR SHOULDERS" said Captain Miller, in reference to the P-51 Mustangs in one of the last scenes of the movie, "Saving Private Ryan". Many of the Angels of the 27th Fighter Bomber Group did not return.

Captain Tracey transferred to the 3rd Army Air Force in July 1944 and trained and prepared students for combat in the P-40 and P-51 Mustang. Captain Tracey logged a total of 362 hrs. in the following Aircraft until his discharge on December 7, 1945: B-17F Fortress, P-47D Thunderbolt, BT-13B, C-47A, UC-78, (P-40, P-40F, P-40K10, P-40L, P-40N, P-40N15, P-40N20, P-40N25, P-40N35, RP-40N, RP-40N25 Warhawks), (P-51C, P-51C6, P-51C10, P-51D, P-51D20, P-51K5, P-51K10 Mustangs).

All together Captain Tracey served a total of one year in the Royal Canadian Air Force and three years and seven months in the U.S. Army Air Forces. Ed logged 375 hours in the Royal Canadian Air Force and 825 hours in the U.S. Army Air Forces for a total of 1,200 hours. Ed logged flight time in a total of 45 individual aircraft.

Ed's love of aviation was not about to end. He became a member of the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) and built and flew his homebuilt Mustang II.

I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in saluting the legacy of a

very accomplished WWII combat pilot and instructor Edward J. Tracey.

HONORING DR. MICHELLE KAVANAUGH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2020

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Michelle Kavanaugh. Dr. Kavanaugh was the Founding Director, President, and Acting Executive of the Western New York Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Hub. The WNY STEM Hub mobilizes schools and stakeholders to develop, nurture, and maximize interest in STEM-focused careers through hands-on, one of a kind experiences.

Dr. Kavanaugh's inspiring career in education began with her position as a principal in Sweet Home Central School District. She later became the Assistant Superintendent for Lockport City Schools and then the Superintendent of Plattsburgh City Schools and Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School Districts. Dr. Kavanaugh served as President of the start-up WNY STEM Hub from 2013 to 2019, translating her experience in school administration to a program that seeks to foster a love of STEM learning in students across the Buffalo-Niagara region. She believes that learning about and experimenting with science, technology, engineering, and math as young adults can foster a lifelong commitment to learning and dedication to making a difference in the future.

Under her leadership, WNY STEM Hub's capacity to change lives through learning was especially evident in the "Hand in Hand" program launched in 2017. This rich learning experience engages students to design prosthetic hands for local children in need using 3D printing technology, biomedical design, leadership development, disability awareness and conversations with professionals in related fields. Everyone involved—from students to teachers to mentors to recipient children, including children from Africa—are changed by this program that puts service learning at its center. Dr. Kavanaugh's commitment, energy and vision infused this lesson in learning to help others including the smiles and tears of gratitude from the children and their families who received their hands in a celebratory program.

One of the most successful programs for WNY STEM Hub students focused on developing experiments ready to be tested by astronauts at the International Space Station during their Take Flight—Space Experiments Project. As an early and enthusiastic supporter of WNY STEM Hub, I was especially thrilled to join in honoring three Buffalo Public School students in 2017 who won a competition through the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program and partnered with NASA to test their experiment in outer space. The female middle school students' project "Tuber Growth in Microgravity" questioned the ability for potatoes to grow at the International Space Station, earning the students the nickname "Spud Launchers."

Most importantly and to Dr. Kavanaugh's credit, these "life-altering" and "out of this